



Our Mission:

"To educate and provide opportunities for people of diverse interests to work together to improve the environmental, recreational, cultural, and economic resources of the Rock River Basin"

For Immediate Release
Earth Day, April 22, 2006

Contacts: Penni Klein, City of Middleton
(608) 827-1044
Ellen Rulseh, Rock River Coalition
(608) 240-9424

**City of Middleton, Earth & Water Works, LLC, and Rock River Coalition
Win CONTECH Stormwater Solutions National Grant Competition**

Calling it "an outstanding water quality and educational project" Mark R. Baker, regional representative of CONTECH Stormwater Solutions Inc. will present a check for \$12,000.00 to Mike Davis, Administrator for the City of Middleton's Water Quality project. The successful grant application was ranked first among more than 30 applications that were submitted from across the US to CONTECH Stormwater Solutions for their annual water quality grant. The project will improve the water quality going into Lake Mendota and the Rock River Basin from Middleton's Tiedeman and Stricker kettle ponds.

Mr. Baker will present the check during Earth Week, on Tuesday, April 25th, 10:45AM, at Middleton's Elm Lawn Grade School.

Penni Klein, Middleton Public Lands Manager, acknowledged Ellen Rulseh of Earth & Water Works, LLC and the Rock River Coalition for her role in initiating and following through on the winning grant. "You made it happen," Klein said. Rulseh noted that Klein's "can do" attitude, backed up by excellent support from the City of Middleton's Mayor, Doug Zwank; City Council; Administrator, Mike Davis; and Land Conservation Committee members' progressive stormwater mitigation projects, were essential to the application's success. Through the Rock River Coalition's "Rain Garden in Every Community" project partnership, Elm Lawn Grade School teacher, Lynn Karle and her fourth grade students have begun to incorporate an understanding of the problems of stormwater runoff, and how native plants, rain gardens and buffers can help into classroom curriculum. The fourth graders will assist with planting and maintenance at the site.

On Tuesday morning, prior to the check presentation, Earth & Water Works, LLC's Susan Priebe will present a design workshop, during which the students will familiarize themselves with the different types, sun or shade and soil requirements of native plants. "Flash cards" depicting native plants and grasses, and some samples have been provided by Agrecol.

The award-winning application includes a community outreach component in which the school children will help host a "picnic in the park" to present information about the project to their parents and community members. Karle's 2007 and 2008 classrooms will continue to study and assist in maintaining the site. The majority of the site preparation and labor for the \$21,710.00 project will be provided on an "in kind" basis by the City of Middleton.

The Storm Water Curriculum & Teaching Guide that Rulseh is distributing to teachers through "A Rain Garden in Every Community" was developed by Earth Partnership for Schools, UW-Madison Arboretum and Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership. For more information about participating in the Rain Garden in Every Community Program, funded by the EPA, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Wisconsin Environmental Education Board, contact Ellen Rulseh at 920-674-7443. For more information about Earth & Water Works, LLC's rain garden, shoreline buffer, prairie restoration or green roof design and installation services, call (608)240-9424 or info@earthwaterworks.com.

###